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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/557,912	04/21/2000	Ken-ichi Ohta	35.G2573	9393

5514 7590 02/11/2003

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EXAMINER

KASSA, YOSEF

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2625

DATE MAILED: 02/11/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

1. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1-21 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over McQueen et al (6,069,696) further in view of Kinoshita et al (5,416,715).

With regard to claim 1, McQueen et al discloses determination means for comparing color-image data stored in image storage means with a pattern stored in pattern storage means (see col. 15, lines 49-59).

McQueen et al did not explicitly call for the color-image data stored in image storage is read with a predetermined timing. In the same field of endeavor, However, Kinoshita et al (see col. 5, lines 16-25 and col. 5, lines 61-65) teach this feature. At the time of the invention, it would have been obvious to incorporate the teaching of Kinoshita et al color image processing system into McQueen et al system. The motivation for doing so is to that, scanning each stored frame, and comparing each pixel with the next succeeding scanned pixel , determining if a color difference exists between two adjacently positioned pixel thereby saving time and labor by making the screen information see Kinoshita et al col. 2, lines 65-67).

With regard to claim 2, McQueen et al discloses color-image processing apparatus comprises a computer, and wherein said storage means comprises a hard disk (see col. 10, lines 8-11).

With regard to claim 3, McQueen et al discloses the color-image data is stored in said image storage means as a file (see col. 10, lines 47-50).

With regard to claim 4, McQueen et al discloses comprising alteration means for performing alteration for the color-image data when said determination means has determined that the color-image data coincides with the pattern (see col. 8, lines 43-54).

With regard to claim 5, McQueen et al discloses pattern storage means, said image storage means and said determination means are controlled by an operating system, and wherein the operating system periodically performs the determination for the color-image data stored in said image storage means (see col. 10, lines 1-11).

With regard to claim 6, McQueen et al discloses image storage means stores color-image data corresponding to a plurality of images, and wherein, after determining the color-image data, said determination means records information indicating end of the determination in the determined color-image data (see col. 11, lines 23-25).

With regard to claim 7, McQueen et al discloses determination means does not perform determination for the color-image data where the information indicating the end of the determination has been recorded (see col. 11, lines 38-44).

With regard to claim 8, McQueen et al discloses application software operating in the operating system assigns color-image data stored in said image storage means,

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and wherein said determination means determines the color-image data when reading the color-image data (see col. Fig. 1, items 31-36).

With regard to claim 9, McQueen et al discloses the determination by said determination means is performed when an operation input of an operator is not provided for a predetermined period (see Fig. 13, items 981-986).

With regard to claim 10, McQueen et al discloses wherein the determination by said determination means is performed when a CPU (central processing unit) of said color-image processing apparatus does not execute application software (see col. 3, lines 5-20).

With regard to claim 11, McQueen et al discloses the determination by determination means is performed when starting said color-image processing apparatus (see Fig. 1, item 30).

With regard to claim 12, McQueen et al discloses the determination by said determination means is performed when copying the color-image data from an external storage device to said image storage means (see Fig. 1, items 37-36).

With regard to claim 13, McQueen et al discloses in the determination by said determination means is performed when copying the color-image data from said image storage means to an external storage device (see Fig. 13, item 982).

With regard to claim 14, Kinoshita et al discloses the determination by determination means is performed during communication of the color-image data with an external apparatus connected to said color-image processing apparatus via a network (see col. 4, lines 17-24).

With regard to claim 15, McQueen et al discloses the color-image data is stored in said image storage means as an image file, and wherein said determination means performs determination by obtaining bit-map data other than data buried within the image file in a format of a tag (see col. 4, lines 39-44).

Claim 16 is similarly analyzed as claim 9 above.

Claim 17 is similarly analyzed as claim 10 above.

Claim 18 is similarly analyzed as claim 1 above.

Claim 19 is similarly analyzed as claim 2 above.

Claim 20 is similarly analyzed as claim 1 above.

Claim 21 is similarly analyzed as claim 2 above.

Other Prior Art Cited

2. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant disclosure.

US Patent No. (4,772,938) to Sasson discloses color video signal frame store.

US Patent No. (5,319,473) to Harrington discloses method and apparatus for performing real time color gamut compressing.

US Patent No. (4,897,802) to Atkinson et al discloses method and apparatus for preparing and displaying visual displays.

US Patent No. (5,126,795) to Maruyama et al discloses image recording method.

Conclusion

3. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to YOSEF KASSA whose telephone number is (703) 306-5918. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday from 8:00 AM to 6:30 PM.

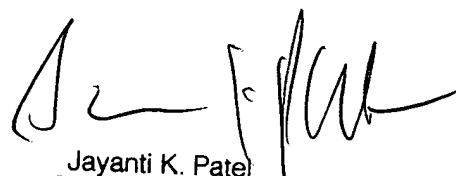
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, BHAVESH MEHTA can be reached on (703) 308-5246. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703) 872-9314 for regular communication and (703) 872-9314 for after Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the customer service office whose telephone number is (703) 306-5631. The group receptionist number for TC 2600 is (703) 305-4700.

PATENT EXAMINER

Yosef Kassa

02/06/03.


Jayanti K. Patel
Primary Examiner